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CAM ANNOUNCES THE OPENING OF THREE NEW EXHIBITIONS

Growing Up Chinese American: Childhood Toys and Memories Exhibit

OPENS: Nov. 5, 2006 – November 2007

Our childhood toys and experiences can deeply influence how we remember the past, understand our place in the world in the present, and lead grown up lives in the future. *Growing Up Chinese American: Childhood Toys and Memories* is an exhibit that explores this relationship by presenting children's toys from the Chinese American Museum permanent collection and the personal stories of their owners. By exploring facets of everyday life for children of Chinese descent coming of age in a rapidly changing 20th century America, *Growing Up Chinese American* presents a complex picture of how childhood can shape our grown up lives in subtle but meaningful ways. The toys and stories featured in the exhibit also suggest by their multiple and varied frames of reference that a broad spectrum of Chinese American childhood experiences exists, and it is from this rich diversity which Chinese American history and Chinese American futures stem.

Celebrate! Chinese Holidays Through the Eyes of Children

OPENS: Nov. 5, 2006 – November 2007

The Chinese American Museum and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA), a pioneering national civil rights organization, present *Celebrate! Chinese Holidays Through the Eyes of Children*—an exhibit of original artworks about Chinese festivals and celebrations made by school children across the United States. Ten years after the CACA's original 1995 National Art Competition, these vibrant winning images are brought together again in *Celebrate!* to signal the exciting return of this nation-wide art contest in 2007, a joint project between CAM and the CACA. The children's images featured in this exhibit, all of which garnered awards and special mention in the CACA National Art Competition, celebrate Chinese tradition, the diversity of American culture as seen from a young person's point of view. *Celebrate!* also honors the creativity of all the contestants whose artful interpretations of Chinese festivities demonstrate that customs can link us to our history and inspire wonder about what our future holds.

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Three New Exhibits
Page 2 of 2

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

OPENS: Nov. 5, 2006 – October 2007

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance is a national organization whose purpose has been for more than a century to advocate for the rights and promote the well-being of the Chinese American community. A group of young men, born in America of Chinese Ancestry, formed the Alliance in San Francisco, California in 1895, to fight discriminatory laws fueled by wide spread anti-Chinese sentiment in the late 19th Century. Since its inception, the Alliance has generated a broad range of political, social and cultural activities based on its abiding commitment to the Chinese American community. Youth programs focusing on civic duty, community awareness, and cultural pride have been a large part of the Alliance's repertoire of community-wide activities. This new exhibit will feature objects ranging from artifacts to historic collateral materials provided by the various Alliance Lodges located throughout the United States. Winning artworks from the Alliance's *Centennial National Art Competition*, a youth program developed by the Los Angeles Lodge in 1995, are concurrently on display in *Celebrate! Chinese Holidays Through The Eyes Of Children*. The Chinese American Citizens Alliance and the Chinese American Museum are pleased to bring back the National Art Competition in November 2006.

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